### TITLEPAGE

LITTLE EVA ASCENDS

OCIL 17486 C

By: Thomas Beer

Photoplay of 5 reels -

Directed by George D. Baker

Author of Photoplay: S-L Pictures

Distributed by Metro Pictures Corp. U.S.A.

JAN 24 22

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#### GARETH HUGHES IN "LITTLE EVA ASCENDS"

#### The Cast

A George D. Baker Production for S-L(Arthur Sawyer and Herbert Lubin) Pictures. Distributed by Metro Pictures Corporation.

Photographed by Rudolph J. Bergquist.

Art Direction by E. J. Shulter. From the Saturday Evening Post Story by

Thomas Beer.

The saying that actors to born, not made, applies to John and Roy Cullen, aged eighteen and sixteen. They travel in the stock company lorded over with a high hand by their mother. While they mechanically go through their parts in the stale repertory plays in sleepy villages, they dream of a time in the near future when they can work on a farm.

John is patient, but Roy is in tantrums. He feels the limit is reaches when his mother tells him he will have to appear as Eva in "Uncle Tom's Cabin" all through June and July. Roy knows he is too old for the part. Shame fills him as he dons long stockings, wig, and fluffy pantaloons. His resentment is at a boiling point when the troupe registers at the only hotel in the Connecticut town of Semple. The proprietor is a Mr. Wilson. When John goes to his mother's room and announces Roy's petulance, she fumes at the ingratitude of her sons and mentions the fact that Mr. Wilson is father of the lads. She had married him when she was acting Little Eva nineteen years before, but she fled with the children when doness might ruin the show. But when John and Roy go for a walk with the "Uncle Tom" blockhounds they meet Mr. Wilson, who invites them to his sixty-acre farm, two miles out, for supper. John refuses.

"We--we better not," he says. "Hama wouldn't know where--say, don't tell the kid! He's got to act to-night, and--he's a ner-

Then they grow chummy. The lather tells his son he doesn't like the idea of their trailing around the country with a bum stock company. He proposes that they come and live with him.

Little Eva Ascends.

The hour before the show arrives. Roy sheds his street clothes and puts on the vesture of Little Eva, while John blackens up for the role of Uncle Tom. Roy is raging. He wants to "queer" the show by talking in bass instead of falsetto. The first act begins. From the wings Roy sees Mr. Wilson. He is in a panic lest the truth of Eva being played by a boy be discovered. Everything goes on well, however, and the next scene is the ascension to heaven. The curtain is still down, when someone in the back gallery yells: "Hurry and get to heaven, sister!"

Roy sees red. He climbs the ladder to reach the stage heaven. The players kneel below him. The audience roars. Roy flings his wig as far as his arm can send it, and shakes a fist at the people with a desperate baritone howl of, "All right, you big bunch of stiffs!"

The ladder topples into the back drop. Roy grasps the circular door of heaven and the aged canvas rips. The audience shrieks and howls with mirth. Roy picks himself up from his fall and staggers into the corridor. His brother takes him aside.

"Come on," he says. "I jammed the switch down. Scoot! She'll kill you. Run and beat it for father's place--I mean Wilson's."

John is approaches behind the stage by his father, who wants him to leave the show business and settle on his farm. Wilson stalks towards the group surrounding Mrs. Cullen, who has fainted, and supports her off into the wings. She agrees to let Roy and John go to the farm and to disband the company. The inducement is a check for \$2,000. Mrs. Cullen now has enough money to buy the Crispville Opera House, where she hopes to operate on a more ambitious scale than on the road.

A car draws up and John is driven to the farm. He is delighted with the country sights and sounds, asks about the cattle, and enters the farm, where key, now in his element, is dancing a breakdown for his father and a dozen farmhands in the parlor.

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